DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS OF FOREIGN POLICY
U.S. Military Academy, West Point,
February 20, 1949

1. What is the sense of national security?

Gibbon. How much more the west of 40 yrs. ago

What has happened?

2. Framework of our national security

Four centers of power

Why not China?

Coal reserves (1/3 those of West.Europe
(1/6 those of Russia
(1/10 those of U.S.

Iron (1/2 those of West.Europe and Russia and U.S. which are about equal

Oil (1/4 those of Russia
(1/13 those of U.S.

Two periphereal ones can be discarded.

Other two must be brought together against us.

3. What has happened in relations of these power centers?

Why were they not a menace to us 40 or 100 yrs. ago?

1. Increased efficacy of land power.
2. European end of the see-saw thrown out of whack by rise of Germany.

Causes. Industrial rev. & nationalis made G. powerful force in Europe but without traditions to teach her how to wield power.

World War I

Methods more than aims antagonized us--brought us in

Our failure after the peace.
Versailles, Austria.

World War II

What did it do?

(a) Knocked out balance and power of resistance of western Europe.

(b) Left Russians weakened but still unified - astride continent

4. What are we trying to do about it?

(a) Push Russia back - but mainly by bucking up western Europe.

(b) But here we run across German problem. In trying to restore confidence and prosperity in western Europe, we encounter unsolved problem of Germany's relationship to other countries there. Germany has proved herself unworthy to dominate continent - yet her strength is necessary to Europe if Europe is to resist Russia.

5. How are we doing?

With our first objective - pretty well -

but we have been aided by

Russian stupidities

Tito controversy

Nat. recuperative powers of Europe

What form victory? We don't know.

Second objective - only beginning -

Here real test of U.S. leadership. We must show great skill and imagination to find adjustment of German position in Europe.

If these problems solved (and we are far from solution) then we must proceed to create more stable world order.